

Flack
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No. 2 CIA officer resigns

WASHINGTON (AP) — The No. 2 man at the Central Intelligence Agency has resigned, reportedly over policy differences with President Carter's CIA director.

And one knowledgeable source said there was a good possibility of a series of resignations at the spy agency over the same policy differences. But details of the policy dispute were not available.

E. Henry Knoche, a 24-year veteran at the agency, submitted his resignation to President Carter on July 5, a spokesman for Adm. Stansfield Turner, the CIA director, said Wednesday.

The CIA spokesman denied reports that Knoche, 52, was forced to retire by Turner.

And in an official statement, the CIA denied that a wave of firings was imminent at the agency.

"There are no plans for forced retirements or removals of any top CIA officials. There are no plans for major changes in the CIA organization at this time," the statement said.

At the White House, presidential press secretary Jody Powell referred

reporters to the CIA's statement about Knoche's resignation and said of the reports of further ones, "I think the reports are exaggerated."

Knoche was named deputy director of the CIA by then-President Gerald Ford in 1976. Under an executive order issued by Ford, Knoche was in charge of the CIA's day-to-day operations.

A source familiar with the situation said Knoche resigned because he did not agree with the programs and policies advocated by Turner. The source, who asked not to be quoted, would not explain the issues involved in the disagreements between Turner and Knoche.

At a February 1977 news conference, Carter said that Knoche was "very competent." Knoche was acting director of the CIA at the time, filling in between the resignation of George Bush as CIA chief and Turner's confirmation.

Knoche joined the CIA in 1953 as an analyst, part of the analysis branch that makes up the larger part of the CIA's operations.

As deputy director, Knoche was the

first person from the analysis branch to reach so high a position in the agency. Previously, career CIA officials to reach the top echelon of the agency had come from the agency's clandestine service.

In 1963, he was made special assistant to the CIA director. Then, in 1967, he was named executive director of the National Photographic Interpretation Center.

In 1965, he was made deputy director for budgeting and planning and deputy director of the Office of Current Intelligence in 1970.

In 1975, he was named associate deputy to the director of central intelligence.